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1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a an ester comprising:
 - (a) contacting an olefin selected from the group consisting of ethylene, propylene, isoolefins, normal butenes, and C₅ to C₁₈ olefins with carbon monoxide and ~~an acid composition comprising~~ a, BF₃·2ROH acid compositon to form a product composition;
 - (b) adding ROH to the product composition of (a); and
 - (c) separating ~~an a acid product comprising~~ BF₃·2ROH acid product from the ester, wherein ROH is selected from methanol; n-propanol; n-butanol; 2-propanol; 2-ethyl hexanol; isohexanol; isoheptanol; isooctanol; isononanol; 3,5,5-trimethyl hexanol; isodecanol; isotridecanol; 1-octanol; 1-decanol; 1-dodecanol; 1-tetradecanol and mixtures thereof.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
~~(d) recycling a portion of the separated acid product to contact the olefin or ether.~~
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the olefin is an isoolefin.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the olefin is isobutene.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the olefin is contacted with carbon monoxide and ~~a an acid composition comprising~~ BF₃·2ROH acid composition at a temperature from about 60°C to about 200°C.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein ~~the olefin is contacted with carbon monoxide and an acid composition comprising BF₃·2ROH at a~~ said temperature is from about 110°C to about 160°C.

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9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the olefin is contacted with carbon monoxide and ~~a an acid composition comprising~~ BF₃·2ROH acid composition at a pressure from about 30 atm to about 200 atm.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein ~~the olefin is contacted with carbon monoxide and a an acid composition comprising~~ BF₃·2ROH acid composition at a said pressure is from about 110 atm to about 160 atm.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein ROH is methanol.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
——(d) contacting the olefin with a hydrocarbon, wherein the hydrocarbon is selected from a saturated linear or branched hydrocarbon having at least six carbons.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
——(d) adding a hydrocarbon to the product composition of (a), wherein the hydrocarbon is selected from a saturated linear or branched hydrocarbon having at least six carbons.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising:
——(e) separating the hydrocarbon and ROH from BF₃·2ROH and directing a portion of the separated hydrocarbon and the separated ROH to a unit selected from the group consisting of a separation unit, a reaction unit, and a combination thereof.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
——(d) contacting the olefin with phosphoric acid.

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19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~separating~~ the acid product ~~is separated by~~ comprises concentrating the acid product such that the molar ratio ROH:BF₃ in the concentrated acid product is from about 2:1 to about 4:1.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein ~~the concentrated acid product comprises a~~ said molar ratio of ROH:BF₃ is from about 2:1 to about 3:1.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the acid composition comprises has a molar ratio of ROH:BF₃ from about 1.6:1 to about 3: 1.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein ~~the acid composition comprises a~~ said molar ratio of ~~ROH:BF₃~~ is from about 1.9:1 to about 3: 1.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~where~~ wherein the product composition contains less than 3% by weight carboxylic acid.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of making methyl pivalate comprising:
contacting methyl-t-butylether with carbon monoxide and a ~~an acid composition comprising~~ BF₃·2CH₃OH acid composition to form ~~a product composition comprising~~ methyl pivalate product composition;
adding methanol to the product composition; and
separating a ~~an acid product comprising~~ BF₃·2CH₃OH acid product from the methyl pivalate.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the methyl-t-butylether is contacted with carbon monoxide and a ~~an acid composition comprising~~ BF₃·2CH₃OH acid composition at a temperature of about 110°C to about 160°C.

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26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the methyl-t-butylether is contacted with carbon monoxide and ~~a an acid composition comprising~~ $\text{BF}_3\cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ acid composition at a pressure from about 30 atm to about 200 atm.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 further comprising contacting the methyl-t-butylether with a ~~hydrocarbon, wherein the hydrocarbon is selected from a~~ saturated linear or branched hydrocarbon having at least six carbons.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 further comprising contacting the product composition with a ~~hydrocarbon, wherein the hydrocarbon is selected from a~~ saturated linear or branched hydrocarbon having at least six carbons.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 further comprising separating the hydrocarbon and the methanol from the methyl pivalate and directing a portion of the separated hydrocarbon and the separated methanol to a unit selected from the group consisting of a separation unit, a reaction unit, and a combination thereof.

30. (Original) The method of claim 24 further comprising contacting the methyl-t-butylether with phosphoric acid.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein ~~separating the acid product comprises~~ is separated by concentrating the acid product such that the molar ratio $\text{ROH}:\text{BF}_3$ in the acid product is from about 2:1 to about 4:1.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein ~~the concentrated acid product comprises a~~ said molar ratio of $\text{ROH}:\text{BF}_3$ is from about 2:1 to about 3:1.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the acid composition ~~comprises~~ has a molar ratio of $\text{ROH}:\text{BF}_3$ from about 1.6:1 to about 3: 1.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33 wherein ~~the acid composition comprises a~~ said molar ratio is of $\text{ROH}:\text{BF}_3$ from about 1.9:1 to about 3: 1.

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35. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the product composition contains nonanoic methyl esters such that the molar ratio of methyl pivalate to nonanoic methyl esters is about 4 or greater.

36. (Currently Amended) A method of making an ester comprising:

- (a) contacting an olefin selected from the group consisting of ethylene, propylene, isoolefins, normal butenes, and C₅ to C₁₈ olefins with carbon monoxide and ~~an acid composition comprising~~ a BF₃ ROH acid composition to form a product composition;
- (b) adding ROH to the product composition of (a); and
- (c) separating ~~a an acid product comprising~~ BF₃·ROH acid product from the ester, wherein ROH is selected from methanol; n-propanol; 2-propanol; n-butanol; 2-ethyl hexanol; isohexanol; isoheptanol; isooctanol; isononanol; 3,5,5-trimethyl hexanol; isodecanol; isotridecanol; 1-octanol; 1-decanol; 1-dodecanol; 1-tetradecanol and mixtures thereof and wherein the molar equivalents of ROH in the BF₃ ROH, ranges from about 2 to about 4.

37. (Currently Amended) A method of making a an ester comprising:

- (a) contacting an ether with carbon monoxide and ~~an acid composition comprising~~ a BF₃·2ROH acid composition to form a product composition;
- (b) adding ROH to the product composition of (a); and
- (c) separating ~~a an acid product comprising~~ BF₃·2ROH acid product from the ester, wherein ROH is selected from methanol; n-propanol; n-butanol; 2-propanol; 2-ethyl hexanol; isohexanol; isoheptanol; isooctanol; isononanol; 3,5,5-trimethyl hexanol; isodecanol; isotridecanol; 1-octanol; 1-decanol; 1-dodecanol; 1-tetradecanol and mixtures thereof.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 further comprising:

- ~~—(d) recycling a portion of the separated acid product to contact the ether.~~

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the ether is represented by the formula R'-O-R'', wherein R' = saturated C₁ - C₁₃ alkyl and R'' = saturated C₁ - C₁₃ alkyl, and R' and R'' can be the same or different.

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40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the ether is methyl-t-butylether.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein the ether is contacted with carbon monoxide and ~~a an acid composition comprising~~ $\text{BF}_3\cdot 2\text{ROH}$ acid composition at a temperature from about 60°C to about 200°C.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 41 wherein ~~the ether is contacted with carbon monoxide and an acid composition comprising~~ $\text{BF}_3\cdot 2\text{ROH}$ at a said temperature is from about 110°C to about 160°C.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein the ether is contacted with carbon monoxide and ~~a an acid composition comprising~~ $\text{BF}_3\cdot 2\text{ROH}$ acid composition at a pressure from about 30 atm to about 200 atm.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~ 43 wherein ~~the ether is contacted with carbon monoxide and an acid composition comprising~~ $\text{BF}_3\cdot 2\text{ROH}$ at a said pressure is from about 110 atm°C to about 160 atm°C.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein ROH is methanol.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the ether is methyl-t-butyl ether.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the ether is diisopropyl ether and ROH is 2-propanol.

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49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 further comprising:

~~—(d) contacting the olefin or ether with a hydrocarbon, wherein the hydrocarbon is selected from a saturated linear or branched hydrocarbon having at least six carbons.~~

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 further comprising:

~~—(d) adding a hydrocarbon to the product composition of (a), wherein the hydrocarbon is selected from a saturated linear or branched hydrocarbon having at least six carbons.~~

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50 further comprising:

~~—(e) separating the hydrocarbon and ROH from $\text{BF}_3 \cdot 2\text{ROH}$ and directing a portion of the separated hydrocarbon and the separated ROH to a unit selected from the group consisting of a separation unit, a reaction unit, and a combination thereof.~~

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 further comprising:

~~—(d) contacting the olefin or ether with phosphoric acid.~~

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein separating the acid product ~~comprises~~ is separated by concentrating the acid product such that the molar ratio ROH: BF_3 in the concentrated acid product is from about 2:1 to about 4:1.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53 wherein ~~the concentrated acid product comprises a~~ said molar ratio of ROH: BF_3 is from about 2:1 to about 3:1.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein the acid composition ~~comprises~~ has a molar ratio of ROH: BF_3 from about 1.6:1 to about 3: 1.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55 wherein ~~the acid composition comprises a~~ said molar ratio of ROH: BF_3 is from about 1.9:1 to about 3: 1.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 ~~where~~ wherein the product composition contains less than 3% by weight carboxylic acid.

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58. (Currently Amended) A method of making an ester comprising:

- (a) contacting an ether with carbon monoxide and ~~an acid composition comprising a~~ BF_3 ROH acid composition to form a product composition;
- (b) adding ROH to the product composition of (a); and
- (c) separating ~~a an acid product comprising~~ $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{ROH}$ acid product from the ester, wherein ROH is selected from methanol; n-propanol; n-butanol; 2-butanol; 2-ethyl hexanol; isohexanol; isoheptanol; isooctanol; isononanol; 3,5,5-trimethyl hexanol; isodecanol; isotridecanol; 1-octanol; 1-decanol; 1-dodecanol; 1-tetradecanol and mixtures thereof and wherein the molar equivalents of ROH in the BF_3 ROH, ranges from about 2 to about 4.